

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 06749 230648Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SCA-01 DHA-02 IO-13 AGR-05 AGRE-00

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /101 W

----- 041152

R 221531Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3299

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6749

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US, GW

SUBJ: MY FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER OSKAR FISCHER

1. DURING MY HALF-HOUR FAREWELL CALL SEPTEMBER 21 ON GDR FOREIGN MINISTER OSKAR FISCHER, THE MAIN POINT HE MADE WAS HIS INTEREST IN GIVING "AN IMPULSE" TO THE POLITICAL ASPECT OF US/GDR RELATIONS THROUGH MEETINGS OR CONVERSATIONS BY HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION HE REFERRED TO HIS CONVERSATION AT HELSINKI WITH THE SECRETARY, ASSERTING THAT HE AND THE SECRETARY HAD AGREED THAT PERIODIC "SUMMARIES OF DEVELOPMENTS" BY FOREIGN MINISTERS OR OTHER HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS WERE USEFUL. WHILE FISCHER INDICATED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MORE OR LESS TURNED HIM ASIDE, FISCHER NOTED, AT THE END OF MY CALL, THAT HE WOULD BE AT THE UNGA SESSION BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 27 FOR 12 DAYS, GOING TO NEW YORK BY WAY OF CUBA. FISCHER ALSO NOTED THAT SUCH MEETINGS, WHICH HE DID NOT CHARACTERIZE AS CONSULTATIONS, COULD BE OF "ADVANTAGE AND HELPFUL" IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 06749 230648Z

OUR RELATIONS. I NOTED AT THE END OF MY CALL THAT I

WOULD CONVEY FISCHER'S COMMENTS ON PROGRESS IN OUR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS TO THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT ON MY RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

3. DURING OUR DISCUSSION, FISCHER CHARACTERIZED THE WHOLE RANGE OF US/GDR RELATIONS AS GOING "HESITATINGLY" BUT THAT IN THE ECONOMIC FIELDS MATTERS WERE "SOMEWHAT EASIER". IN THIS REGARD HE COMMENTED ON THE FORTHCOMING FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS, CHARACTERIZING THESE AS A MOVE FORWARD, BUT DID NOT REFER TO THE GRAIN TALKS. HE ALSO LIKENED OUR RELATIONS TO THAT OF THE BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD, SAYING THAT THE BABY IS NOW WALKING AND SHOULD BEGIN TO DEVELOP AT A MUCH FASTER RATE.

4. IN MY RESPONSE, I SAID I HAD APPROACHED MY MISSION IN THE GDR FROM THE STANDPOINT OF REPRESENTING MY COUNTRY'S PURPOSE TO ESTABLISH BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE LONG PERIOD OF ISOLATION, THE DIFFERING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS HAVE NECESSARILY REQUIRED THAT OUR RELATIONS DEVELOP SLOWLY, BUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS WAS GOOD IN ITSELF AND ALSO FOR THE IMPACT IT COULD MAKE ON THIRD COUNTRIES TOWARD THE LESSENING OF TENSIONS AND MUTUAL DETENTE.

5. IN REVIEWING OUR RELATIONS, I NOTED A NUMBER OF RECENT FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING THE UNDERTAKING OF FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS AND GRAIN TALKS. I ADDED THAT SOME STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF CULTURAL RELATIONS AND NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD VERY SHORTLY BE MAKING PROPOSALS IN THIS FIELD TO APPROPRIATE GDR AUTHORITIES.

6. RECALLING THAT I HAD DISCUSSED WITH HIM AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE GDR OTHER BILATERAL MATTERS AND WHILE I DID NOT WANT TO ENTER INTO DEBATE WITH HIM AT THIS TIME, I EXPRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROGRESS IN TWO AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE US, I.E. THE CONSULAR CONVENTION AND MORE PROGRESS IN HUMANITARIAN CASES, ADDING THAT I HAD SPOKEN OF THESE MATTERS WITH GENERAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 06749 230648Z

SECRETARY HONECKER. I HAD PREFACED THESE REMARKS BY NOTING THAT IN SEEKING TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS THERE WAS NO PURPOSE TO INTERFERE IN GDR INTERNAL MATTERS.

7. FISCHER RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY AND DID NOT WANT TO SUGGEST THAT BY HIM OMISSION OF ANY REFERENCE

TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION OR OF HUMANITARIAN CASES THAT THEY WERE NOT CONSIDERING THESE TOPICS. HE ASSERTED THAT WE SHOULD TAKE AS AN INDICATION OF THE GDR'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN GENERAL TO SUCH MATTERS THE CONTACTS HE HAS HAD WITH A NUMBER OF WESTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS. FISCHER THEN WENT INTO A DISINGENUOUS EXPLANATION OF HIS DEALINGS WITH HIS WESTERN COLLEAGUES AT HELSINKI AND SUBSEQUENTLY. HE NOTED THAT THESE "COLLEAGUES" HAD PRODUCED LISTS OF HUMANITARIAN CASES AT HELSINKI, BUT THAT THIS YEAR, AS HE VISITED MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES, THESE UNNAMED FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH WHOM HE HAD CONTACTS HAD NO LISTS FOR THE GDR. HIS EXPLANATION WAS THAT THE GDR, AFTER HELSINKI, HAD EXAMINED THESE CASES AND "DEALT WITH THEM." (NOTE: WESTERN EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS HAVE TOLD ME THAT LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN RESOLVING HUMANITARIAN CASES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FRGL.

8. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT QUESTIONS OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP AND "OTHER PROBLEMS" REQUIRED CAREFUL EXAMINATION, ADDING THAT FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES ARE NOT ALL "ONE WAY." HE ADDED SUCH CASES CAN BE SETTLED GIVEN PATIENCE AND CALM, AND THAT WE MUST TAKE THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND "ACT ON IT". HE CONCLUDED THIS PART OF HIS DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT WE SHOULD WORK ON SUCH CASES, THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT, BUT THEY CANNOT PREVENT WARS. IN HIS VIEW EFFORTS TO PREVENT WAR AND CONFRONTATIONS HAVE PRIORITY OVER ALL OTHER MATTERS AND FOR THIS REASON CONTACTS ON A BILATERAL LEVEL ARE IMPORTANT.

9. I CHOSE NOT TO ENGAGE FISCHER IN A DISCUSSION ABOUT PEACE--WHICH IS OBVIOUS. I ONLY NOTED, AS I HAVE IN OTHER FAREWELL CALLS ON GDR OFFICIALS, THAT ALL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BERLIN 06749 230648Z

STATES SHOULD SHOW RESTRAINT AND CALM IN THEIR RELATIONS AND AVOID CONFRONTATIONS.

10. COMMENT: FISCHER OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE SECRETARY AT A POLITICAL LEVEL WHILE IN THE US, I ASSUME AT UNGA. I FOUND FISCHER'S ABSENCE OF COMMENTS ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION AND HIS REMARKS ON HUMANITARIAN CASES SOMEWHAT DISTURBING. HONECKER HAD TOLD ME HE WOULD LOOK INTO BOTH OF THESE MATTERS AND ONE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED A SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING RESPONSE FROM FISCHER. I WOULD SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT, IF THE SECRETARY DOES NOT SEE FISCHER, PERHAPS ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN MAY WISH TO SEE HIM TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE THE US ATTACHES TO PROGRESS ON BOTH OF THESE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE HAVE SHOWN

INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST,
SUCH AS FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS AND GRAIN TALKS.

11. AN ASSESSMENT OF FISCHER IS DIFFICULT. WHEN HE TOOK
OVER THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1975, SEVERAL
AMBASSADOR WHO HAD SERVED IN BERLIN SINCE THEIR
COUNTRIES HAD ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH THE GDR EXPRESSED
THE VIEW THAT HE WAS NOT VERY ABLE. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS
BEEN ENTRUSTED TO MAKE VISITS IN THE LAST YEAR TO PARIS,
ONDON, BELGUIM, DENMARK AND NORWAY, ALTHOUGH I HAVE
BEEN INFORMED BY THEIR AMBASSADORS TO THE GDR HIS VISITS
HAD LITTLE SUBSTANCE. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, FISCHER HAS
VISITED SEVERAL SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES AS THE GDR
MANIFESTS GREAT INTEREST IN SOUTH AMERICA.

12. I HAVE FOUND HIM ALTERNATIVELY FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS--
AND COLD AND ABRASIVE. AS NOTED IN THIS MESSAGE HE
ADVANCES DISINGENUOUS ARGUMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE APPEARS TO
THEN INGENIOUS. HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO GIVE
THE APPEARANCE OF SOLIDITY AND SUBSTANCE AS DO THE
MAJORITY OF OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE GDR.COOPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CONSULAR AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN06749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760360-0405
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760934/aaaabcsr.tel
Line Count: 190
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MY FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER OSKAR FISCHER
TAGS: PFOR, GC, US, GE, (FISCHER, OSKAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006